



Members Respond to the Coronavirus Challenge

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What's the biggest work/COVID-19 challenge you're facing this week?

Endeavoring to have the base building and hard fit out works completed within a new tenancy into which we are to relocate post COVID-19 Level 2.

What's the current situation in your city relative to opening non-essential businesses?

With the correct application of social distancing protocols some non-essential businesses are permitted to operate from their normal place of work. This means some retail stores are still closed, with others operating in a managed manner.

How do you think COVID-19 will bring about permanent changes in corporate real estate and workplace strategy?

Companies will understand that with the right technology their staff can be mobile and work away from the office without compromising the process or outcome. Meetings do not have to be face to face, but rather Teams, Zoom, etc. can provide a cost-efficient alternative. Accordingly, the requirement for staff to be located in the office every day and a number of meetings to be held around the physical table will reduce. There will still be a need for staff and meetings to be face-to-face, but the number reduced, potentially reducing the area of CRE required. Perhaps lower allocation of desks per person, increased demand on technology which supports mobility. The need for personal interaction is still important and needs to be accommodated within fit for purpose premises.